

**VAVS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
VA MEDICAL CENTER, PORTLAND/VANCOUVER
3710 SW US VETERAS HOSPITAL ROAD
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Associate Director of Operations
Co-Chairman, VAVS Committee

1. SCHEDULED MEETING: The VAVS Committee meeting for Portland and Vancouver Division FY 2006 convened on Tuesday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. in the Vancouver Columbia Room.
2. VA STAFF ATTENDING: VA Medical Center staff attending the meeting was as follows:

Gayle Donkin, Specialist, Voluntary Service
Toni Davis, Program Assistant, Voluntary Service
Barbara Parker, Secretary, Voluntary Service
Chaplain Asparro, Chaplain Service
3. OPENING OF MEETING: Gayle Donkin called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Jim Asparro, Chaplain, lead the invocation and Mr. Michael Archer, Military Order of the Cootie Rep., led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. CHAPEL BEAUTIFICATION: Chaplain Asparro thanked all of the organizations for donating funds toward the Chapel Beautification Project. \$10,000 has been donated and \$8,000 is needed to complete the project. There are enough funds to remove the back door and replace with a window and new lighting. When the remaining funds are donated, the stained glass windows will be installed.
5. VAVS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VANCOUVER

Michael Archer, Chairman of the Vancouver VAVS Executive Committee reported that the VAVS Committee is in good working order. The Committee held a bake and craft sale in April and raised approximately \$200.00. The funds will go toward fulfilling the needs of the medical center. Funds raised in the past allowed the committee to put together a Christmas Dinner for around 40 veterans housed in the Transitional Lodging Unit.

Michael announced that Bill Stulck was nominated Employee of the Quarter and Thelma Hathaway Volunteer of the Quarter.

PORTLAND

Nita Lucht, Chairman of Portland VAVS Executive Committee, announced that May 10th and 11th the committee will hold their next sale. As Mothers Day, Memorial Day, and Fathers Day are approaching, they hope to have items to sell for the upcoming celebrations. The last VAVS Executive sale raised \$760.00 from the sales table and \$1,111 in ice cream sales. Nita was pleased to report that the VAVS Executive Committee donated \$1,123 to Education Service to purchase a camera controller for the Simulator Management Project. The committee also purchased scenic pictures for the Emergency Room waiting area, \$800.00 for slipper socks and coffee fund, \$650.00 for 100 sets of heart pillow fabric, and \$27.16 towards cell phone service for the DAV drivers. Nita thanked everyone who donated ice cream and other items for the VAVS Executive sale and all volunteers for doing a great job serving veterans.

6. FOLLOW-UP

A) Volunteer Luncheon Follow-up

The volunteer awards banquet was successful this year. The theme was, "Volunteers Plant the Seeds of Kindness". Over 200 volunteers attended. If anyone has creative theme ideas for the awards banquet next year, please let a Voluntary Service Staff member know.

B) Coffee Program

Coffee hostesses or hosts in both Portland and Vancouver, please make sure the area is clean and monitor people when they help themselves to a pastry or cup of coffee to make sure they are not taking more than their share. If there is a person who is taking advantage, please let a Voluntary Service Staff member know. Please make sure the coffee pots are clean when you return them to the Voluntary Service kitchen area. When the pots are not clean, it is frustrating to the person who makes the coffee for the next day. Voluntary Service is providing coffee in more areas of the medical center. In Portland, one of the new areas is the Specialty Clinics that serves over 200 cups of coffee each day. Another area of interest is the X-Ray department. A donation for the Voluntary Service Coffee Program is much appreciated.

C) Recipe Books

Barbara Parker presented the 2005 Holiday Recipe Book that she put together by gathering all of the recipes that were contributed by volunteers from the 2005 volunteer holiday party. Please see Barbara or Julie in the Voluntary Service office to pick up a book.

7. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A) Clinic Coffee Hosts

Additional volunteer assignments are available. There is a need for Clinic Coffee Hosts for the Specialty Clinics and Pharmacy in Portland. Part of the duties would be to man the coffee cart and socialize with visitors.

B) Appointment Reminder Calling

The medical center is in need of volunteers to make appointment reminder calls for the specialty clinics in Portland. It is an administrative position where volunteers are provided a list with veterans' names, phone numbers, date, time, and location of the appointment. 20-30 volunteers are needed any day(s) between Monday and Friday. Please let Gayle Donkin know if you are interested in this position.

C) Pandemic Plan and Potential Volunteer Involvement

The VA has prepared a pandemic plan in case there is an outbreak of the influenza virus. Gayle read the following information about the VA Pandemic Plan, "The new VA Pandemic Influenza plan has been added to the VA's existing Emergency Plan to organize preparation, response and recovery stages for an influenza pandemic at the national, regional, and local levels. The plan includes assumptions about the impact of pandemic influenza, preparation actions, stop, slow, or limit the spread of disease, and key steps to resuming normal operations." Volunteers are needed in both Portland and Vancouver divisions to participate in the Pandemic Plan with a team of staff members. Volunteers would be assisting staff by taking temperatures, bringing the patients fluids, babysitting children of VA Staff, etc. More information will be provided at a later date.

D) Holiday Events Coordinator

Barbara Weatherill has agreed to be a Holiday Events Coordinator (Committee Chair) to plan events throughout the year. Events include National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, 4th of July, Veterans Day, Holiday Decorations, etc. Members of this committee are needed. If you are interested in being a part of the committee or assist in planning a particular event, let a Voluntary Service staff member know.

E) Willamette National Cemetery

Volunteers are needed at the Willamette National Cemetery to assist with administrative duties or to be a part of the honor guard for funeral burials. New volunteers will need to go through VA Voluntary Service and regularly scheduled volunteers will continue logging their hours as usual. Please see Gayle Donkin if you are interested.

F) Community Nursing Home Visitation

For many years volunteers have visited veterans outside the VA Medical Center who are in community nursing homes. Due to confidentiality, Social Work Service is in the process of finding out which veterans approve of having their names on the rosters. Once it is complete, Portland Volunteer Nita Lucht will organize a roster which will be available to those who are interested and plan to have an updated roster each month. Attached to the roster is a document labeled "Community Service Visitation Program." Please fill in the information and include specifics about how the veterans are doing, how is their care? This information will be forwarded to a Social Worker so they can follow up with the veteran. Community nursing home visitation hours are credited through Voluntary Service.

8. EVENTS

A) Memorial Day Massing of the Colors

Memorial Day Massing of the Colors will be held Sunday, May 28th at 11:00 a.m. in the Vancouver Division Columbia Room. A potluck will be held after the ceremony.

B) Portland Beavers Visit

Through the DAV organization, the Portland Beavers have offered to visit the veterans at the Portland VA Medical Center and Vancouver Division May 15th. Volunteers will escort the team around the medical center and room to room.

C) Cancer Survivor's Day

A basket fundraiser will be held in the honor of cancer survivors June 8th in the Portland Auditorium between 10:00a.m. and 3:00p.m. Each department will gather funds to purchase items for themed baskets. The baskets will be given out to cancer survivors in a raffle. Everyone is invited to attend.

D) Rose Festival Ambassadors Luncheon

On June 6th, it will be the 61st year that the American Legion Auxiliary has hosted the Rose Festival Ambassadors luncheon. There are 13 high school seniors that will spend an entire day visiting patients at the Ronald McDonald House, Doernbecher and Schriner's Children's Hospitals, and the VA Medical Center. When they arrive at the Portland VA, the Rose Festival Ambassadors will be greeted by VA dignitaries, attend the luncheon, and be escorted around the medical center to visit veterans and distribute roses.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) Gayle Donkin announced that she will be moving to Tucson, AZ anytime between May and July. She appreciates everyone and their support.

B) Next VAVS Meeting – Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. in the Portland Auditorium.

10. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

No questions or comments were made for the good of the order.

11. CLOSING THOUGHTS

A few weeks ago Gayle took a trip to New York City and toured the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Wall Street, and Ground Zero. When she visited the memorial at Ground-Zero, there was a plaque from Mayor Rudy Giuliani that had a quote that was appropriate for the memorial at Ground Zero and what volunteers do at the VA in support of America's veterans.

“The attacks of September 11th were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified. We feel renewed devotion, the principles of political, economic, and religious freedom, the rule of law, and respect for human life. We are more determined than ever to live our life for freedom.”

Quoted by Mayor, Rudy Giuliani

Submitted By:

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:

Kay Hilt, CTRS,
Chief, Voluntary Service
Deputy Chairperson, VAVS Committee

Floss Mambourg, RN, MS
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